

Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

CU-04 SS-20 AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /122 W

----- 065897

R 071615Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2166

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 4006

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SOCI, CM

SUBJECT: STUDENT UNREST

REF: YAOUNDE 3944 AND 3976

1. AFTER CABINET DISCUSSION OF SITUATION AT UNIVERSITY DECEMBER 6, MINED ISSUED COMMUNIQUE WHICH ATTRIBUTED DISTURBANCES SINCE DECEMBER 3 TO STUDENTS FROM FACULTIES OF LAW, ARTS, AND SCIENCES DEMANDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EVERY STUDENT. EXPLAINED THAT CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIPS INCLUDE AGE, ACADEMIC STANDING, FAMILY FINANCIAL SITUATION, AND LEVEL OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN COUNTRY'S VARIOUS REGIONS; AND STATED BUDGETARY RESOURCES NOT SUFFICIENT TO GIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO ALL 6000 STUDENTS. STATED THAT AUTHORITIES HAD TO CALL IN FORCES OF ORDER TO REESTABLISH ORDER AND PROTECT PEOPLE AND PROPERTY; STUDENTS THREW STONES AT POLICE; TWO STUDENTS SLIGHTLY HURT, BUT RUMORS THAT TWO WERE KILLED ABSOLUTELY FALSE. ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MOST STUDENTS REMAINING ABSENT FROM CLASSES, THOUGH PROFESSORS PRESENT AT POSTS. CLOSED WITH NOTIFICATION THAT THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP LIST ALREADY POSTED AT UNIVERSITY AND WITH REQUEST THAT STUDENTS RESUME CLASSES DECEMBER 7 OR FACE SEVERE SANCTIONS.

2. COMMENT: FROM OUR OBSERVATIONS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH
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STUDENTS, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS, COMMUNIQUE

SEEMS ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE, CALM DESCRIPTION INTENDED
KEEP SITUATION IN PERSPECTIVE AND DEFUSE INEVITABLY
EXAGGERATED RUMORS. BOYCOTT WAS ABOUT 100 PERCENT EFFECTIVE
AS OF DECEMBER 6, BUT NO INCIDENTS HAD OCCURRED FOLLOWING
THOSE OF DECEMBER 4 (YAOUNDE 3974). SEVERAL STUDENTS
ARRESTED FOR RESISTING POLICE, BUT THEY NOT NECESSARILY
LEADERS OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS. IT APPEARS DEAL MAY BE
UNDERWAY TO RELEASE ARRESTED STUDENTS IN RETURN FOR ENDING
BOYCOTT, AND PERHAPS TO DISCUSS SCHOLARSHIP SITUATION.
ACCORDING TO LATEST REPORTS, BOYCOTT STILL CONTINUING DEC 7.
MOORE

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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